

FOUND OBJECT

bird feeder

It's for the birds!

Bird watching is a fantastic way to get to know your wild neighbours. It doesn't take a lot of expensive equipment (though a pair of binoculars and a bird identification book or app are helpful) and you can do it pretty much anywhere! Once you start watching birds regularly, you may begin to notice that some species are present in your neighbourhood all year long while others may spend either part of the year near you or may pass through during annual migrations that can cover thousands of kilometres.

Bird is the word! Perfect for your little night owl, turn bedtime reading into an opportunity to get a bird's eye view through the migration journey of a young Wilson's warbler named Sammy in *This Panama? A Migration Story* by Jan Thornhill.

Habitat is where it's at! Food, shelter, and water are all necessary requirements for a bird habitat, and birds that migrate need to find suitable habitat all along their lengthy migration routes. Seems pretty simple, but as humans continue to gobble up land for industrial development, habitat loss becomes a really big problem for birds. You can help your local friends by providing some of the things birds need to survive. One easy place to start is to put out a bird feeder!

While there are many different kinds of bird feeders that you can buy, making your own from objects found around your home or even your recycle bin can be a fun way to support your neighbourhood birds!



Materials:

- Toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- Birdseed
- Nut or seed butter
- Dish or container
- String for hanging

Instructions:

1. Place birdseed in a shallow dish.
2. Smear nut or seed butter onto the paper tube, then roll the tube in birdseed.
3. Thread a string through the tube creating a loop for hanging.



Safety first! Avoid accidental bird strikes by placing your feeder either less than three feet or more than 30 feet from a window.

Materials:

- Pine cones
- Lard
- Birdseed
- String

Instructions:

1. Place birdseed in a shallow dish.
2. Smear cones with lard, pushing the fat into the spaces. Roll the cones in birdseed.
3. Attach a string to the top of the pine cone and hang outside on a branch.

Be a citizen scientist and help count birds! Join bird watchers of all ages in The Great Backyard Bird Count and submit your sightings to help create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across North America! gbbc.birdcount.org

The Exploration Club for Families... NatureKids BC helps children get outdoors to play, imagine and explore in nearby nature. Join a family nature club near you or become a free-range member. Find out more at: www.naturekidsbc.ca. If you are already a member you can use this activity as part of your Action Awards Quest!

